



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Opening of Easton improves east-west travel



Motorists are breathing a little easier with the opening of Easton Street on October 2. The new four-lane street, which runs parallel to Highland Avenue south of the freeway corridor, is now open between Sierra Avenue in Fontana and Ayala Drive in Rialto.

Rialto Unified School District employee Veronica Moreno praised the new route as a “wonderful” alternative to Highland Avenue. “Driving through Easton was a breeze,” she said.

Highland is now permanently closed between Sierra and Ayala to allow for the construction of bridges, storm drain systems and later, the freeway mainline. The freeway eventually will replace this section of Highland Avenue.

Several north-south streets in Rialto are temporarily closed at Highland for freeway bridge construction. Ayala Drive will be closed until next summer, and Locust Avenue will be closed through February. Once Locust opens, work will begin on the Linden Avenue bridge, requiring a full street closure as well.

Lilac Avenue north of Highland, which closed in August, reopened last week. The newly extended Cedar Avenue is providing access to Easton while Ayala is closed.

Drivers are reminded to allow extra time for travel, watch for detour signs, drive carefully through construction zones, limit mobile phone distractions and be patient.

Rialto detour work to begin

Yeager-Skanska was the lowest responsible bidder for work on the future detour project through Rialto.

Improvements will include new traffic signals at Riverside/Ayala and Bohnert/Ayala, widening in selected locations on Ayala and Baseline, and traffic signal synchronization along the detour route.

The improvements will help move traffic along these streets as part of the “Rialto Detour” opening next summer.

This detour is designed to divert motorists to Baseline from Highland Avenue between Ayala and Riverside avenues. The detour will allow construction crews to work more quickly and safely.

The contract totals \$1.07 million. Work will start in November.

Pepper Avenue ramps may be postponed from 210

Drivers expecting to use Pepper Avenue as an on-ramp or off-ramp on Route 210 may have to wait a year or two after the freeway opens. SANBAG Board members will vote next month whether to remove the Pepper ramps from the project, due to difficulties with extending Pepper Avenue north to the freeway.

The City of Rialto has run into trouble extending Pepper, due to costs related to mitigation for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, which thrives in that area. Escalating costs make it impossible for Rialto to complete the Pepper extension in time to receive federal funds. The ramps cannot be included in the freeway plans unless Pepper is extended.

To keep the project moving forward, SANBAG will consider removing the ramps on a temporary basis and reinstating them once the Pepper extension is complete. If this agreement is approved, SANBAG will assist the city in identifying funding for the road project.